

Town of Arlington
Office of the Town Clerk
Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476



Tel: 781-316-3070
Fax: 781-316-3079

NOTICE REGARDING TOWN MEETING NOMINATION PAPERS

December 14, 2021

The notice will be updated as information changes.

The Town Clerk's Office will be issuing nomination papers for Town Meeting races later than usual. Normally, reprecincting is completed over the summer, allowing time for the voter registration database to be updated at a time when there aren't deadlines. This year, precinct boundaries are being approved in November and December and the voter registration records are needed in December or January for town elections and town census mailings.

The Secretary of State's Office has indicated that Arlington's voter registration database is likely to be updated by early January, but that is only an estimate. Nomination papers for Town Meeting cannot be issued until the update is completed. In addition, Arlington Town Meeting proposed legislation to change the process for town meeting elections. To implement the change that the Legislature is expected to approve in January, we need to hold nomination papers for the impacted races pending the outcome. Nomination papers specify the office sought and that will be determined by how seats are to be filled.

Therefore, candidates will be eligible to pull papers on different dates depending on the precinct.

Precincts 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18 - Candidates will be able to request nomination papers as soon as possible in January.

Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 14, 19, 20, 21 - Candidates will be able to request nomination papers no later than January 27, 2022. This will allow two weeks to gather the necessary 10 signatures before the deadline to return the papers on Friday, February 11 at 5 pm.

If the state approves our change before January 26:

The precincts with new precinct boundaries (Precincts 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18) will vote for:
NOT MORE THAN TWELVE candidates.

The precincts electing seats up for re-election in 2022 will vote for:

NOT MORE THAN FOUR (Precincts 2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 19, 20); or

NOT MORE THAN FIVE (Precincts 1, 14, 21) because there are vacancies to fill.

If the state does not approve our change by January 26:

The precincts with new precinct boundaries (Precincts 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18) will vote for:
NOT MORE THAN TWELVE candidates.

Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 14, 19, 20, 21 will vote for:

NOT MORE THAN FOUR; AND there would be three additional races on the ballot:

Precinct 1 – a seat for 1 year
Precinct 14 – a seat for 2 years
Precinct 21 – a seat for 1 year

Filling seats by vote order. When precinct boundaries changed, state law for many years called for the winners will be seated in the order of their vote totals: top four seated for three years, next four for two years and the final four seated for one year. Note that incumbent Town Meeting Members may run by returning a simple signed form to the Town Clerk – it's not necessary for them to collect signatures again. This concept was the model for the proposed changes for all future town meeting elections. The Town Clerk will identify the vacancies to be filled and therefore the number of seats on the ballot for each precinct. All candidates from a precinct will be on the ballot and if there are vacancies, they will be filled in the order of vote totals.